REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on December 11, 2003. Claims 1 – 12 are pending in the present application. With this Response, Applicants amend claims 1 and 7. No new matter is introduced.

OBJECTION TO DRAWING

Figures 1 and 2 are objected to under MPEP § 608.02(g) for failing to be designated as -- Prior Art --. Figure 3 is objected to as including reference numerals 20 which are not mentioned in the specification. Applicant amends the specification to mention reference numerals 20. In addition, Applicant provides replacement sheets, in clean and marked-up form, proposing drawing changes to Figures 1 and 2 for adding the Prior Art designations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests that the drawing changes be accepted, and that the objections to Figures 1 – 3 be withdrawn.

OBJECTION TO SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to for certain informalities at pages 1, 2 and 8. Applicant thanks the Examiner for recommending language to correct the informalities, and uses the recommended language to correct the informalities at pages 1 and 2. With respect to page 8, Applicant provides a replacement sheet, in clean and marked-up form, proposing drawing changes to Figure 5A so that Figure 5Ais consistent with the language at page 8 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,252,855 to Langley. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langley. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langley in view of 6,370,173 to Shaffer et al. Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langley in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,301 to Ganson et al. Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langley in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,115,429 to Hluchyj et al. Applicant amends claims 1 and 7 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverses the rejections.

In independent claims 1 and 7, Applicant respectively discloses a method and router apparatus that changes a fragment size of data packets by: a) acquiring in the router a parameter indicative of whether proper audio quality is maintained through transmission of the audio packets, and b) dynamically changing the fragment size of the data packets in response to the acquired parameter.

Langley discloses a method and apparatus for negotiating a maximum frame size to be used by endpoint devices at least an originator of frames and a recipient of frames in a frame relay network (see, e.g., abstract of Langley). According to the method of Langley, frame size is negotiated and set between an originator and a recipient based on the lower of acceptable delays desired by each of the originator and the recipient (see, e.g., column 2, line 63 through column 3, line 11 of Langley). This frame size remains fixed so long as the endpoint devices interconnected by the network remain unchanged

In sharp contrast to the method disclosed by Langley, Applicant discloses a method which acquires a parameter indicative of audio quality (for example, a measured

audio quality), and dynamically changes a fragment size of data packets according to the audio packet parameter (for example, changing the fragment size when the measured audio quality falls below a predetermined threshold).

According to Applicant's claimed method, for example, if measured audio quality degrades as a result of call traffic congestion, fragment size is reduced in order to restore the measured quality level. If call traffic congestion diminishes, Applicant's claimed method operates to increase fragment size, and to reduce the number of packets required for transmission (see, e.g., page 12, line 20 through page 20, line 17 of Applicant's specification).

Rather than setting a frame size as a static negotiation between endpoint devices as in Langley, Applicant discloses a method for dynamically adjusting fragment size by acquiring an audio quality parameter in a router. As a result, Applicant's fragment adjustment method provides an advantage in being largely transparent to endpoint devices in the network.

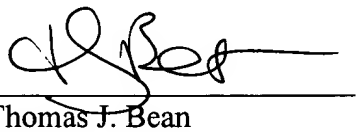
Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claimed invention is neither anticipated by Langley nor made obvious by the combination of Langley with one or more of the other cited references. As a result, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 7 are allowable. As claims 2 – 6 and 8 - 12 respectively depend from allowable claims 1 and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 – 6 and 8 - 12 are also allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that 1 - 12, which include independent claims 1 and 7, and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in

condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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(REPLACEMENT SHEET)

FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

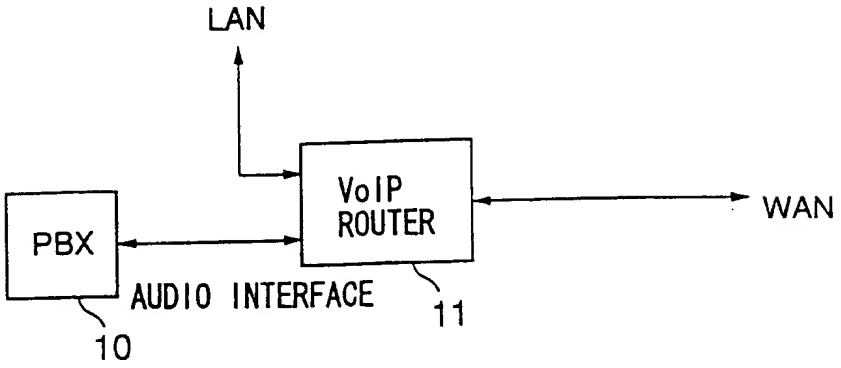
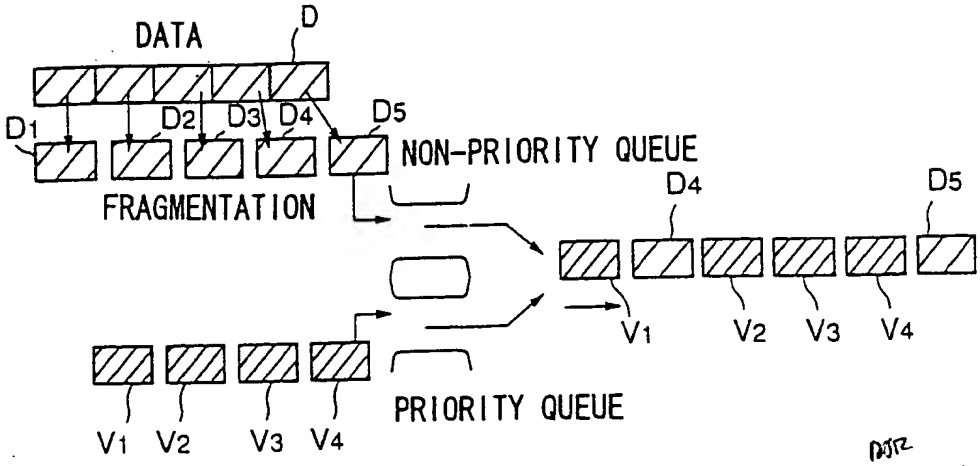


FIG. 2
PRIOR ART



(REPLACEMENT SHEET)

FIG. 5A

PREFIX

〈GATEKEEPER TABLE〉

ITEM	~~SUFFIX~~ NUMBER	VoIP ROUTER ADDRESS	COMMUNICATION FLAG
1	7000	127.0.2.1	0
2	7001	128.0.2.1	1
3	7002	129.0.2.1	1

FIG. 5B

〈VoIP ROUTING TABLE〉

	NETWORK	VoIP ROUTING TABLE COST (DISTANCE)	RELAY ROUTER
VoIP ROUTER (22A)			
	127.0.1.1	0	—
	127.0.2.1	0	—
	127.0.3.1	1	128.0.3.1
	127.0.3.1	1	129.0.3.1
VoIP ROUTER (22B)			
	128.0.1.1	0	—
	128.0.2.1	0	—
	128.0.3.1	1	127.0.3.1
VoIP ROUTER (22C)			
	129.0.1.1	0	—
	129.0.2.1	0	—
	129.0.3.1	1	127.0.3.1